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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I am writing to ask you to preserve the 1996 law which allows newer competitors access to the copper wire-based telecommunications network.

Broadband isn't nearly as competitive as it ought to be, at least as reflected by the prices. Within the last year, I halved what I pay for phone and Internet by switching to a smaller company (Sonic). In order for them to succeed, they need the access that the 1996 law guarantees them.

As more and more consumers rebel against the high prices charged by many companies (like AT&T and Comcast), they are switching to lower-cost competitors (like Sonic), and dropping services they don't need or want to pay for (like cable TV or dish).

At the point in time that I switched to Sonic, I investigated reverting to good, old copper-wire telephone service from AT&T. They charge about \$30 per month for telephone service in my area. Compare that to Sonic's \$40 per month for both phone AND Internet. There's no question which is the more attractive package.

I appreciate you considering my input in making your decision.

Howard Neckel